

REMARKS

The Examiner's action dated March 3, 2003, has been received, and its contents carefully noted.

The subject matter of claim 2 has been incorporated into claim 1, claim 2 has been cancelled, and claim 3 has been amended to depend directly from claim 1. Claims 1 and 3 are pending. The specification and abstract have been amended to correspond more closely to the claims.

The indication of substantive allowability of claims 2 and 3 is noted with appreciation. As indicated above, claim 2 has been placed in independent form by incorporation of all its subject matter into claim 1.

In addition, in response to the rejection of claim 2 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, claim 1 has been further amended to specify that each portion has a larger axially sectional area than the grooves formed in a portion of the half bearing mainly subjected to load during rotation of the shaft. It is submitted that the addition of the term "axially" establishes a clear definition of what constitutes the sectional area.

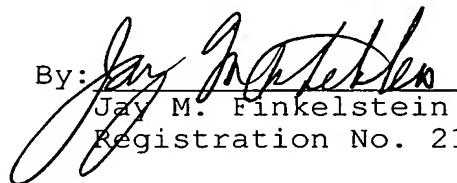
Accordingly, it is requested that the formal rejection of claims 2 and 3 be reconsidered and withdrawn, that claims 1 and 3 be allowed and that the application be found in allowable condition.

In re of Appln. No. 10/025,576

If the above amendment should not now place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to call undersigned counsel to resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,
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